

Let us have only denatured automobile races.

Are the auto races trying to make bull fights appear humane?

Still, at its new price, radium will hardly be a substitute for coal.

The new \$5 bills will be smaller. That's appropriate—they act smaller.

Connecticut woman earned \$10,000 last year selling eggs—the real thing.

So far none of our aviators has been successful enough to break into vaudeville.

All the pessimist can see in an aeroplane flight is a big crowd and a stiff neck.

A Buffalo man was given five years for stealing a cent. Something of a sentence, that.

New York bank thief collapsed when he was arrested. He was a close second to the bank.

Someone has estimated that the earth weighs seven trillion tons. But cheer up! You're not carrying it.

That war in Nicaragua cost 4,000 lives. Men have not yet discarded the blood-letting system in politics.

The doctor who thinks that the Adam's apple is responsible for insanity may be on the eve of a great discovery.

"Venezuela consumes 1,000,000 gallons of kerosene a year." Why doesn't somebody start an electric light plant down there?

Joy riding in the air has this advantage—there are no chickens to be run over. The birds have so far succeeded in dodging.

In South Norwalk, Conn., lives a herculean young woman who played tennis in a hobble skirt. Naturally she broke her leg.

When the aeroplanes dash around the course at the rate of a mile a minute they never kick up any clouds of microbe-laden dust.

If shark meat ever crowds beef in the world's markets a shortage of rain on the great plains will make no difference in the quality.

As a general thing when a girl wears such an extreme hat that a man has to dislocate his neck to look under it her face is not worth the effort.

The greatest authority on love in the world is dead. Calm yourself, ladies—it's an Italian professor. The author of "Poems of Passion" still lives.

A woman of sixty years swam five miles in the Mississippi river at St. Louis the other day. It is needless to say that she did not wear a hobble skirt.

Bob Evans tells us that an airship is a plaything and would be of no use in war. But what will Bob do when those bombs begin dropping down the chimney?

Chicago man marries for the first time at the age of ninety-two. He'll have to do some tall hustling to catch up with the average Chicago record from now on.

That Poughkeepsie society woman whose pearl necklace was confiscated by the customs officials might have had it yet if she could only have kept it under her hat.

The waiters now ask to be divided into classes. Excellent idea! Waiters who wait, waiters who make customers wait, waiters who are polite and waiters who are otherwise?

A little while ago the cheering word was passed that lobsters would become more plentiful. Now it is threatened that there will be a shortage of salmon and sardines.

It may be none of our business, but we trust that the priorities will deal gently with the eighty-one-year-old woman who has entered the Ohio state university as a student.

A Kansas City woman, suing for divorce, charged that her husband quarreled with her for going to a funeral. Some men are so mean they hate their wives to have any pleasure at all.

Eighty-two pounds of sugar for every man, woman and child last year! The men may offer thanks that the women and children got theirs.

A Connecticut man fired ten bullets in his head without fatal results. It is hard to tell which was greater—the persir force of his determination or the resisting quality of his brains.

That incident in Naples where two strangers trying to give candy to children were suspected by the police-stricken people of spreading the cholera and mobbed with cries of "Death to the poisoners!" shows how little progress has been made since the days of the plague, in some places.

ROAD and FARM IMPROVEMENT



GRADING LAWNS AND FIELDS

For Smoothing Uneven Places Plank Smoother Is Useful—Buckscraper Also Used.

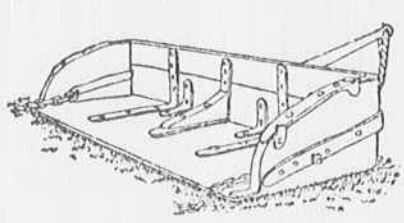
Where irrigation is practised it is necessary to bring the surface to a uniform grade. The appearance of lawns is also improved by grading. For simply smoothing uneven places the plank smoother is very useful, says Farm and Home. This is made eight to ten feet long and of heavy joist, shod with a piece of flat steel on the lower edge. A plank is



Split-Log Smoother.

fastened at the middle for the driver to stand on. His added weight will aid materially in the work accomplished. Either two or four horses can be used on a drag of this sort.

Where there is much grading to be done the buckscraper is the best device. A very useful one is made four feet along the cutting edge, three feet deep and one foot three inches high. It will carry one-half cubic yard at a load, and must be made of two-inch plank, well braced with strap iron. The cutting edge should be of steel.



The Buckscraper.

The drawbar works on pins fixed near the middle of the sides. The handle is about seven feet long, and by it the scoop is kept under control for filling or tipping.

SOIL ROBBER IS DISCOVERED

Two English Scientists Announce They Have Found Micro-Organism Which Destroys Bacteria.

Two English scientists, Drs. Russell and Hutchinson, announce that they have discovered the micro-organism which destroys the bacteria essential to the fertility of the soil. Other scientists declare the discovery the most important made in half a century. Having found the culprit, the next thing for the scientists to do will be to discover his "natural enemy" and proceed to eliminate him from the cosmic scheme. The discovery seems to have come none too soon, since, according to estimates made by reliable experts, the soil of the United States has been robbed of \$1,000,000,000 worth of fertility in the last 30 years. The loss in farm values has varied in the different states from \$1,000,000 to \$100,000,000, according to the figures given out by the census bureau. The question of "soil robbery" is not one for future generations to solve, but for those of the present day. Rich as is the United States, it cannot afford to be robbed of a billion dollars in 30 years, with the prospect that if the robber isn't stopped he will take two billions or more in the next 30 years.

Whatever that micro-organism discovered by Russell and Hutchinson may look like, however small he may be, he should be chased out of the country and off the earth, writes John A. Howland in Chicago Tribune. A step in this direction has already been taken, even before the announcement of the discovery. It was learned some time ago that certain bacteria were generated by the introduction of nitrates into the soil and that these bacteria were the "fertility" of the earth. Certain plants, such as the legumes, were found to be peculiarly adapted to the culture of these "good bacteria." That is why alfalfa is being heralded as a good thing for the farmer to plant.

But the process of raising the fertility making bacteria by natural process is rather slow, so man decided to help nature along. These bacteria have the faculty of extracting the nitrogen from the air and introducing it into the earth. A process has been invented by which the nitrogen is artificially extracted from the air, formed into a powder, and the powder used to fertilize the soil. This eliminates a long process of natural fertilization. However, if some one can find a way to prevent the fertility from being eaten up by the micro-organism, he will make artificial fertilization unnecessary.

Protect the Lawn.

If leaves have fallen on the lawn, let them remain there during the winter. They will serve as a protection to the sward. You may not think that the sward needs any protection, but if you do not think it receives a benefit from such a covering as leaves provide, take observations, this season. You will find next spring, that the grass where the leaves were thickest is greener and stronger than elsewhere, and it will start into growth sooner in the spring.

SPLIT-LOG DRAG FOR ROADS

Costs Very Little and Make Good, Serviceable Highways—It Is the Poor Man's Friend.

"We have more than once pointed out," says Southern Good Roads, "that where a bond issue or a heavy road tax is impossible owing to the strength of the opposition or to poverty, there can be nevertheless perfectly good earth roads built at very small expense. The chief thing is co-operation among the people of the community. There is no excuse for a bad road in any village or farming section—none whatever. For the split-log drag is the poor man's friend, and with it any people, however poor, however far from the day of macadam, can make and enjoy good roads."

"Let us take, for example, a stretch of bad road in the country. Say it is ten miles in length and that ten farmers live at intervals along its course. It is very bad in summer and next to impassable in winter. Those ten farmers decide that they are not going to put up with holes and ruts and washouts any longer, and they come together. They agree that they will divide the road into ten sections of one mile each, and every farmer is to take charge of a mile. They select one of their number to act as foreman of all. They fall to work and build split-log drags. These cost practically nothing. The office of public roads, United States department of agriculture, will gladly furnish information as to the construction, and if possible will doubtless send an expert to give preliminary instructions."

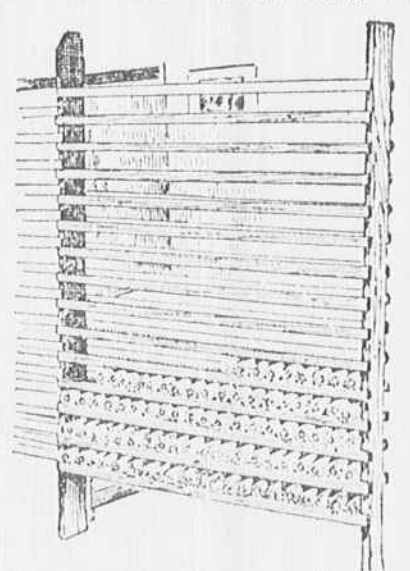
"When the farmers have everything ready, the foreman calls them out after each rain to drag their several sections. This is repeated until with in an amazingly short time that miserable old road has been transformed into a splendid highway, smooth, well drained, well-shaped, a thing of beauty and a joy forever, without the expenditure of enough money for the farmers to miss it. They receive incalculable benefit from the road, and it serves as an object lesson to the rest of their county, causing others to go and do likewise, until in the course of no great time the road situation in the county has been revolutionized and the way paved for the day when permanent stone roads will be built.

"Why not try it in your community?"

DRYING RACK IS IMPORTANT

Few Hours' Work This Fall Will Materially Add to Corn Crop Yield Next Year.

The importance of selecting and drying seed corn in the fall cannot be too strongly urged. A good drying rack is a great convenience and may easily be made. The rack should be



Seed Corn Drying Rack.

placed in a dry room, but one that is not too warm.

By the use of this rack it will be easy to keep certain grades of corn separate. A few hours' work this fall may increase the corn crop very materially next year.

FARM NOTES

Organic matter is very essential in a soil.

A fertile soil is the first thing sought by the pioneer.

The roots should all be in the trench by this time in the northern climate.

Leave no piece of work half done. Drive the hoops down good on every job you do.

It will be much easier to husk corn this month than during the few coming months.

Sometimes the ice crop comes early. No matter when it comes, be ready for it. It may be your only chance.

Pulling and chopping out the big weeds in the garden and truck patches will be in order until frost.

Invest in a gallon or two of paint and go over the implements. Cover the steel parts with raw linseed oil.

By covering tomato vines with cloths or matting when frosts come the yield may be prolonged for some time.

All hinges on the barn doors and gates will work easier if oiled occasionally. Get out the oil can if you have one.

A good use for weeds and old vines from the garden is compost. Every body who maintains a garden should also keep a compost heap, where everything that will rot and enrich the soil can be thrown from time to time.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT

RAILROAD HEAD RESIGNS



Marvin Hughitt, who has been president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway company for nearly 24 years, has given up that position to accept the chairmanship of the board of directors. Mr. Hughitt, who is in his seventy-third year, is in many ways one of the most remarkable men in the railway service. There probably is no man in the railroad world today who is more widely known and yet about whom so little is known in detail as Mr. Hughitt. This is the result of a lifelong policy of doing things rather than of talking.

He was born in Genoa, Cayuga county, N. Y., in 1837, and began his career as a telegraph operator at Albany for the New York and Buffalo Telegraph company in 1852. In 1854 he located in Chicago and worked as an operator for the Illinois and Missouri Telegraph company. Mr. Hughitt entered the railway service in 1856, and until 1862 he was consecutively superintendent of telegraph and train master of the St. Louis, Alton and Chicago at Bloomington. From 1862 to 1864 he was superintendent of the southern division of the Illinois Central.

It was during the latter period that Mr. Hughitt performed an operating feat that has never been surpassed. The government suddenly called upon the road to move a large detachment of troops at a time when the road was flooded with traffic. The force became somewhat demoralized at the magnitude of the problem, whereupon Mr. Hughitt took his place at the dispatcher's key and performed the task without interruption to traffic, at the expense of 72 hours of continuous service. When he awakened two days later he found that he had been promoted to the position of general superintendent of the road.

In 1870 Mr. Hughitt left the service of the Illinois Central to become general manager of the St. Paul road, and a year later George M. Pullman induced him to become the manager of the Pullman company. Mr. Hughitt in 1872 accepted the position of general superintendent of the Northwestern railroad, after which his rise to the presidency was rapid and was marked by the constantly increasing importance of the system in the western railroad world.

One of the most remarkable things about the chairman of the Northwestern's board is the fact that at the age of seventy-three he is able to do and does a more strenuous day's work than most railway presidents who are 15 years younger. The fact that he came from sturdy stock, there being five living generations in the Hughitt family, with the fact also that he took the most perfect care of himself, accounts for his remarkable activity.

FRENCH REPUBLIC'S MASTER



The great railroad strike in France brought more than ever to the notice of the world a remarkable man. On the reassembling of the chamber of deputies Premier Briand created something of a sensation by declaring that he had proof, through confessions of the leaders of the recent railroad strike, that there was a deliberate plot to ruin France by violence, anarchy and civil war.

Briand, now prime minister and master of the French republic, was nobody ten years ago. At thirty-five he was an outsider, and, worse, seemingly a failure even as a lawyer. Suddenly he willed, and all came easy to him. Easy is the word that seems to characterize him now and then.

Born in St. Nazaire, he conquered a degree of law. Would he have been content to plead party wall cases, marry an \$8,000 dot, play the violin, sing admirably, beat them all at billiards and talk politics? He was not of the ruling set of St. Nazaire. Possibly resentful, possibly great-hearted, he certainly felt for the workmen, who at once understood him and swore by him.

Buying a second-hand press in Paris, he took it from the freight office alone with a horse and wagon, and with one boy put it together, set the type and launched the Democracy of the West. Briand excited great animosity of the ruling classes, and so, for one reason or another, he got himself disbarred as a lawyer.

He quit St. Nazaire, his career apparently broken at the start, and began to write. Paris socialists were edified by the young stranger's grasp of their subjects. His articles in the *Lanterne* became at once noted for their clearness and boldness. They expressed the discontented workman to himself—as if it were the workman who wrote them.

He walked into the sovereign office of French deputy, first in 1902, again in 1906, and now, as simply, he has walked into the cabinet—and put himself at its head. No one realizes how he does it. All happens tranquilly, without fireworks. He steps through cruel difficulties without effort.

MISTRESS OF BIG MANSION



After nine years the most costly house in America has been finally completed, and presiding over it will be a petite young lady who has won her way to this quietly position through a courtship which once threatened to upset a section of Washington politics. The house is that of Senator W. A. Clark of Montana and New York, and is situated at the corner of Fifth avenue and Seventy-seventh street, Manhattan.

The house, when viewed from the exterior, appears rather heavy and massive for the space occupied, but, once within, one appreciates the real harmony of it all. Each of the nine stories is massed with every conceivable adjunct of comfort and luxury; from top to bottom is a store of storied wealth and mechanical device unsurpassed in the modern construction of house building. The bare structure alone cost \$5,000,000.

And the copper king has reared this palace for one who not so many years ago was the daughter of a poor physician in Montana. At that time her name was Anna La Chappelle, and her father, dying penniless, commended her to the care of Senator Clark, urging his interest in her musical talent.

The senator sent his ward to the Boston Conservatory of music, where her progress was so marked as to cause him to send her to Paris, to perfect her studies. It was during this period, says Human Life, that the senator began to realize that his affection for his ward was of more than the fatherly order. While society was busy linking his name with that of nearly every eligible young lady, he became assured his ward's feelings were the same as his own, and asked her to become his wife.

RESEMBLES "FIGHTING BOB"



John C. Hartigan, Brigadier-General of the Nebraska National Guard, frequently designated as the prototype of "Fighting Bob" Evans, is a conspicuous figure, particularly in the West at the present time. Forty years of age, a native of Missouri, he is described as a natural born fighter who never knows when he is beaten. From boyhood Hartigan was always "licking" somebody. After his school days were over he licked his opponents in two races for the mayorship at Fairbury. In 1897 he went to the Philippines as a private soldier and came home a captain. He did some gallant work in active service, and on his return was successively promoted to his present position of honor and usefulness. Hartigan is known as a knight of the mailed fist, and he is one-to-ten shot as a favorite son of Nebraska. The force and efficiency of his military career have been fully demonstrated to his admiring fellow citizens, and it has come about that Hartigan has overbalanced the popularity of that other illustrious Nebraskan, William Jennings Bryan. Westerners admire pluck, and it is said that Hartigan has lots of it.

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"I would rather preserve the health of a nation than be its ruler."—MUNYON.

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Constipation

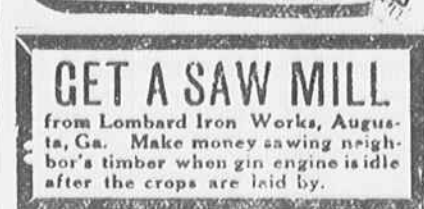
"For over nine years I suffered with chronic constipation and during this time I had to take an injection of warm water once every 24 hours before I could have an action on my bowels. Happily I tried Cascarets, and today I am a well man. During the nine years before I used Cascarets I suffered with internal hemorrhoids, piles. Thanks to you, I am free from all that this morning. You can use this in behalf of suffering humanity." B. F. Fisher, Kankakee, Ill.

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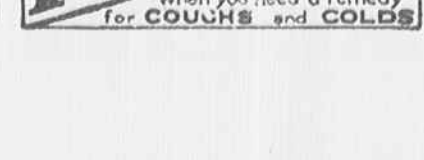
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